

## RUTH AND QUINTIN BLAIR

Owners, Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home

Cody

**QUINTIN:** b. 12/8/1911, Mt. Carmel, Illinois

**RUTH:** b. 9/9/1917, Cowley

### QUOTE FOR PHOTOGRAPH

**QUINN:** I needed someone to mother me. She takes good care of me. She's kind to me. She's sweet to me. She can cook good. She can make wonderful pies -finest pies in the world. I didn't even know she could cook when I looked at her. I said, "I'm gonna get that girl." And I did.

### NARRATIVE

**RUTH:** We built this in house in '52. You know, we didn't decide it. Mr. Wright did, believe it or not. My entry to Mr. Wright was when I was in Chicago. I was a student. I was just a kid about twenty years old, twentyone, studying in Chicago. I had a professor who said one weekend, "Let's go over to Taliesin." Mr. Wright lived in Wisconsin. So we did.

Well, ...good grief, Quinn and I had been married for eight or nine years, hadn't we Quinn? We went to Phoenix one winter to get away. I said, "Quinn, why don't we drive out to Taliesin West?" That didn't mean a thing to him. He just never had heard about him. But to please me, why, we drove out there. And as we drove up to Taliesin, Mr. Wright was standing out in the driveway with his cane, his cape, his porkpie hat, like he was standing there waiting for us. Wouldn't have happened in another million years. He came up to the car to speak to us and we told him we were interested in seeing the place. He was just charming, wasn't he Quinn?

**QUINN:** Sure he was.

**RUTH:** He was just charming. And nothing would do but we'd come out, get out of the car. We walked around with him for a little while. Then he

wanted to know why we didn't have lunch with him. And then, "Why don't I build a house for you?" Quinn says, "Oh no, you don't. I won't get into that. We can't afford you." He says, "It won't cost you one dime more to get me than anybody else. We have a set architectural fee." He says, "All I need is some acreage. I won't do it on a city lot. If you get me some acreage I'll build you a house." He just took our breath away, of course. So in two years Quinn picked up this land out here. We were the only house out here. You saw the lights around here. I mean, there's been a lot of people moved out here since then. But we still have sixty acres, don't we? ...so that we can leave the windows open all the time.

**QUINN:** Wake up mornings sometimes, there'll be ten or fifteen deer in the yard, and three or four fawns, and six or eight wild geese and a hundred mallard ducks out there in your lake.

**RUTH:** It's an experience. It really is. Don't you feel it? Sure. They either really like it and they don't want to leave, or they just can't take it. We don't get as much of that as we used to. When we first built it, it was really different.

**QUINN:** I'd say that it's a blending of stone and wood and glass so you can see outside and feel like you're outside, but you're still inside. You can sit in any room and see wildlife, or see the clouds, or the rain, or the snow or the sunshine.

**RUTH:** You're a part of it.

**QUINN:** You're always lookin' at something beautiful. Even a storm is beautiful.

**RUTH:** Of course, I'm just a nut on houses. I have been all my life. Just a little girl. I love it. That's how come I went to art school. And Quinn's learned to love it and appreciate it, too, haven't you?

**QUINN:** I'd say it's our most important thing. Even before our business, because we could always make a living doing something. I just love it out here. My girls first, and then the house.

**RUTH:** He (Wright) said, "Oh, you've got springs. You're gonna have a pond, you're gonna have wildlife, you're gonna have music in your home." He tried to make it a home.

**QUINN:** And it is, it is.

**RUTH:** Those things were important. And you feel it.

**QUINN:** To me the lady makes the home. She could make a tent a home.

**RUTH:** I could live anywhere. I really could. But Quinn loves Wyoming.

**QUINN:** I love it. I like every rock and rattlesnake in it.

(Note to editor: If shorter version needed, use last 15 lines of this page.)